



AN ACT AGAINST VAGRANTS,

AND

Wandering, Idle, Dissolute Persons.

At the Parliament begun at *Westminster* the
17th day of *September*, *An.Dom.* 1656.

Whereas the number of wandering,
Idle, Loose, Dissolute and Dis-
orderly Persons is (of late) much
increased, by reason of some De-
fects in the Laws and Statutes
heretofore made and provided for the punish-
ment of Rogues, Vagabonds, and Sturdy
Beggars, (they being seldom taken begging)
A by

by means whereof divers Robberies, Burglaries, Thefts, Insurrections, and other Misdemeanours have been occasioned; For the prevention whereof, Be it Enacted by his highnesse the Lord Protector, and this present Parliament, and the Authority thereof, That all and every Idle, Loose, and Dissolute person and persons, which from and after the first day of July, One thousand six hundred fifty seven, shall be found and taken within the Commonwealth of England, vagrant and Wandring from his or their usual place of living or abode, and shall not have such good and sufficient cause or businesse for such his or their travelling or Wandring, as the Justices or Justice of Peace, Mayors, or other Chief Officer or Officers of the respective Counties or Corporations, before whom such person or persons shall be brought, shall approve of; That then every such Idle, Loose and Dissolute person and persons, so taken vagrant and Wandring as aforesaid, shall be adjudged, and are hereby adjudged and declared to be Rogues, Vagabonds and Sturdy Beggers, Within the Statute made in the Nine and thirtieth year of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, Cap. 4. For the Suppressing of Rogues, Vagabonds, and Sturdy Beggers, and shall be proceeded against and punished as Rogues, Vagabonds, and Sturdy Beggers within the said Statute, although they shall not be taken begging, Any Law, Statute or Usage to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons, commonly called Fiddlers or Minstrels, shall at any time after the said First day of July, be taken playing, fiddling and making musick in any Inn, Alehouse or Tavern, or shall be taken profering themselves, or desiring or intreating any person or persons to hear them to play, or make musick in any the places aforesaid, That every such person and persons so taken, shall be adjudged, and are hereby adjudged and declared to be Rogues, Vagabonds and Sturdy Beggars, and shall be proceeded against and punished as Rogues, Vagabonds and Sturdy Beggars within the said Statute, Any Law, Statute or Usage to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

EDINBURGH,

Re-printed by *Christopher Higgins*, in *Harts Close*, over against the Trone Church.

Anno Dom. 1657.
